

U.S. Application No. 09/966,739  
Inventor: Golden, Randy  
Attorney Docket No. 3177 P 351

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**C L A I M S:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of rolling lips about the open mouths of stacked thermoplastic containers, comprising the steps of:  
presenting a nested stack of containers having unrolled lips to a rim roller;  
engaging individual ~~cups~~ containers on a screw assembly;  
heating a supply of air in a heater to a desired temperature;  
discharging the supply of heated air toward the containers as they are engaged on the screw assembly; and  
rolling the lips of the containers ~~in~~ on the screw assembly.
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of preventing the screw assembly from operating until the supply of air reaches the desired temperature.
3. (Original) The method of Claim 2, wherein the screw assembly includes a plurality of screw curlings.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3 2, wherein the screw assembly includes three screw curlings.
5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of passing the nested stack of containers under a crowd brush to direct the containers to the screw assembly.
6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of moving the heater to a position proximate the nested stack of containers when the supply of air reaches the desired temperature.

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7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of moving the heater to a position distant from the nested stack of containers in the event of a malfunction or stoppage.
8. (Original) The method of Claim 6, further comprising the step of moving the heater to a position distant from the nested stack of containers in the event of a malfunction or stoppage.
9. (Original) The method of Claim 6, wherein the step of moving the heater to a position proximate to the nested stack comprises the step of actuating a movable cylinder having the heater attached thereto.
10. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein the step of actuating comprises the step of sensing a desired temperature at a position proximate the nested stack of containers.
11. (Currently Amended) A method of rolling lips about the open mouths of stacked thermoplastic containers, comprising the steps of:  
~~presenting a nested stack of~~ containers having unrolled lips to a rim roller;  
engaging individual ~~cups~~ containers on a screw assembly;  
automatically moving a heater to a position proximate the ~~nested stack of~~ containers when air heated by the heater reaches a desired temperature;  
heating the containers with the heater by directing the heated air toward the containers; and  
rolling the lips of the heated containers in on the screw assembly.
12. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 11, further comprising the step of automatically moving the heater to a position distant from the ~~nested stack of~~ containers in the event of a malfunction or stoppage.

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13. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 11, wherein the step of automatically moving the heater to a position proximate to the ~~nested stack~~ containers comprises the step of actuating a movable cylinder having the heater attached thereto.
14. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 13, wherein the step of actuating comprises the step of sensing a desired temperature at a position proximate the ~~nested stack~~ of containers.
15. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~14~~ 11, wherein the heater is a forced air heater.
16. (Canceled).
17. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~16~~ 11, wherein the step of discharging heating the containers by directing the heated air toward the containers is limited to an area of the ~~nested stack~~ of containers proximate the screw assembly.